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N.W. View of Ludlow Castle.

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LUDLOW.

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THE

LUDLOW GUIDE,

COMPRISING

AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

CASTLE & TOWN:

WITH A SURVEY

OF THE

VARIOUS SEATS, VIEWS &c.

IN THAT NEIGHBOURHOOD,

Worthy the Attention

OF THE

STRANGER & TRAVELLER.

THIRD EDITION.

=*LUDLOW*=

PRINTED AND SOLD BY H. PROCTER,

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BRITISH MUSEUM
DIEU ET MON DROIT

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following ſmall treatiſe was written merely to ſatisfy common enquiries concerning the pleaſant Town of Ludlow, and the principal places worthy of notice in it's Vicinity. In ſuch a work Brevity is indiſpenſably requiſite; yet tho' the Compiler has proceeded on a frugal plan, he has however endeavoured to render the preſent publication ſo far copious, as to become acceptable. Such an account was much wanting, and as no pains have been omitted to render it accurate and complete, it is hoped it may meet with the approbation and patronage of the Public.

LUDLOW, CROWN INN. J PRICE.

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THE

LUDLOW GUIDE.

SECT. I.

Hiſtorical Account of Ludlow and its Vicinity.

It proves a matter of no ſmall difficulty, after ſo long a lapſe of time, to give any particular account of the ancient ſtate of the Town of Ludlow, previous to the æra of the Building of the Caſtle; tho' it appears from the authority of ſundry Records, that it was à place of conſiderable importance before the erection of that formidable fortreſs. As ſuch authority reſts moſtly upon tradition, it doth not by any means deſerve implicit credit; for as during thoſe dark and obſcure periods, we have ſeldom the pleaſure of finding any relations from cotempory writers, all other information conſequently becomes vague, doubtful and inaccurate. Therefore without attempting to inveſtigate accounts founded upon mere conjecture or imaginary etymological analogies, we will

ſtep forward to that period, when, by the erection of its noble Caſtle, it became eminently conſpicuous over the reſt of the circumjacent Towns.

Dinan Llys Tywyſog, the ancient Britiſh name for this place, is an etymology in itſelf ſufficiently explanatory, ſignifying the *Prince's Palace:* for it is an obſervation worth notice, that the old Britiſh proper names of Towns generally imply a ſimple and rational ſignification of the place mentioned: it is ſeldom or ever otherwiſe. We may therefore, with great probability, ſuppoſe it to have been the Caſtle or place of reſidence of ſome Prince of the Country, and not, as mentioned by ſome, merely of the *Prince of Wales*, the aſſumption of which title did not take place until the reign of Edward I. whoſe ſon, born in the Caſtle of Caernarvon, was inveſted with that honor a very conſiderable period of time after the foundation of Ludlow Caſtle.

Concerning the preciſe time of its erection, Mr. Wharton, in his edition of Milton's works, fixes the date in the year 1112, whilſt others, on much weaker authority, aſſert it to have been erected by Edric Sylvaticus, Earl of Shrewſbury, ſometime before the conqueſt: whether or not the latter made any commencement, is a matter at this time of little conſequence; certain it is, that Roger de Montgomery, who lived about the

year

year 1130, erected the greateſt part of the Caſtle of Ludlow, and fortified the Town with walls.

This Nobleman was related to the Conqueror, who ſent him with Roger de Mortimer into the Marches of Wales, to ſubdue Edric Sylvaticus, Earl of Shrewſbury and Lord of Wigmore. Having after great toil and a long ſiege taken Wigmore Caſtle, Edric was ſent Priſoner to the King, and Roger de Montgomery was rewarded for his ſervices with a grant of all Edric's Eſtates in Salop, which comprehended nearly the whole of that County; and Mortimer, as a remuneration for his ſervices, enjoyed the ſtrong Caſtle of Wigmore. This Roger de Montgomery is repreſented in hiſtory as a Perſon no leſs diſtinguiſhed for his Piety than Valour, he was the liberal founder of many rich Monaſteries, and having compleated his favourite ſtructure of Ludlow Caſtle, enjoyed it peaceably 'till the time of his death, which happened in 1194, and was buried in the Abbey Church of Shrewſbury.

Hugh his ſon, ſurnamed *Goch*, or red-headed, inherited his property; but did not enjoy it long, being ſuddenly taken off in the prime of life, and was ſucceeded by his ſon Hugh de Beleſme. This Hugh, in conjunction with Roger de Mortimer, Roger de Laci and others, engaged in the Rebellion begun by Odo Earl of Kent, in behalf of

Robert Curthoſe; and, with the aſſiſtance of the Welch, committed great devaſtations in Worceſterſhire and the borders of Wales. For this act of diſobedience he was deprived by Henry the I. of the Caſtle of Ludlow, and all his other poſſeſſions, and baniſhed into Normandy.

The Caſtle, by this means coming into the poſſeſſion of the Crown, was made a Princely reſidence, greatly augmented in the ſtrength of its works, and ſupplied with a numerous garriſon. Tho' from its ſtrength and commanding ſituation, it ſeemed to bid defiance to all regular approaches, being vulgarly deemed impregnable, yet we find ſoon after, on the acceſſion of Stephen, that it underwent a long ſiege againſt the King's forces.

Accounts vary as to the event of this ſiege; ſome aſſert that it was taken, and the Governor with moſt of his men put to the ſword. Speed ſimply mentions, "Having wonne the Caſtell, he went preſently to Oxford." The following however is the opinion moſt generally accepted. Gervaſe Paganelle, who had been appointed to the truſty office of Governor, having been ſeduced from his allegiance to his Royal Maſter, had eſpouſed the cauſe of the Empreſs Maud; but repenting of his miſconduct, he wiſhed to compromiſe his breach of truſt, and obtain his

pardon

pardon from the King. Stephen was willing to accede to any terms which might render him Maſter of the Caſtle, as he found by hard experience that the reduction of it could not be effected by open force. Paganelle accordingly propoſed a capitulation highly advantageous to the garriſon, which being joyfully accepted by the King, he ſurrendered the place, A. D. 1239.

During this ſiege the Earl of Northumberland, ſon of David King of Scotland, driven on by his juvenile boldneſs, had nearly fallen a victim to his indiſcretion; approaching too near the walls on horſe-back, he was on the point of loſing his life by means of a grappling engine, thrown out by the beſieged. From this perilous ſituation he was extricated by the King, who haſtened inſtantly to his relief, and having cut aſunder with his ſword the ropes to which the iron hooks were fixed, ſaved the young Prince, tho' at the imminent danger of his own life. "An action" ſays Rapin, "which redounded as much to the "honour of the King, as of the Prince for whom "he teſtified ſo great an affection."

About the year 1276, Henry the II. made a grant of this noble Caſtle to Fulke Fitz Warine his favourite, (ſurnamed perhaps from the Caſtle of Ludlow, *de Dinan*;) together with that extenſive

ſive and fertile vale on the banks of the River Corve, called *Corve-Dale*.

To this Fulke Fitz Warine or de Dinan, ſucceeded Joccas de Dinan; between whom and Hugh de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, great diſſenſions aroſe; inſomuch that Joccas *(vide Dugdale's Monaſticon)* could not paſs out of his Caſtle without danger of being taken by Mortimer's men. But it ſo happened, that Mortimer himſelf ſetting ſpies upon Dinan, and roving thereabouts thro' the woods alone, was ſurprized in the thickets contiguous to the *Whitecliffe Heath*, by ſome men who had been ſent to cut wood for the garriſon; by them he was taken priſoner into the Caſtle of Ludlow, and confined in one of the Towers, which to this day is called *Mortimer's Tower* (now inhabited, and uſed as a Fives-Court,) from whence he was not releaſed until he had paid 3000 marks of Silver for his ranſom. An amazing ſum, if we conſider the great diſpropotion of money between that period of time and the preſent.

Such was the mutability of property in thoſe days, that in the eighth year of the reign of King John, we find this Caſtle again in the poſſeſſion of the Crown, by which monarch it was granted to Philip de Albani, from whom it devolved to the ancient family of the Lacies. Walter de

Lacy

Lacy and Gilbert his ſon, granted great poſſeſſions in and near the Town of Ludlow, for the ſupport of the Hoſpital of St. John the Baptiſt, founded by one Peter Undergod, ſoon after the Conqueſt. It was ſituate in a place near the bridge of Ludford, contiguous to Ludlow, called to this day *St. John's Cloſe.*

This Walter de Lacy dying without iſſue male, it deſcended, (according to Camden) to his Granddaughter Maud, daughter of his deceaſed ſon Edward: ſhe had married Peter de Geneville, a Poitevin of the houſe of Lorraine, by whoſe poſterity it deſcended hereditarily to the Mortimers, Lords of Wigmore and Richard's Caſtle.

Ludlow continued for a long ſeries of years in this ſucceſſion of the Mortimers, from whom deſcended a great and noble family in the chief line of it, branched forth alſo into the conſiderable ones of Richard's Caſtle, Attilbury, Chirk and Chilmarch, all Barons and great men in their generations; of whom Sir William Dugdale mentions---"How great, how pious, how numerous, "theſe Mortimers were, and laſtly how honourable "the name went out, being wrapt up in the "Crown by an Heir general."

45 Henry III. I find that orders were iſſued from the Caſtle of Ludlow, commanding all the Baron's Marchers to repair to that fortreſs with horſe

horſe and arms to aſſiſt Roger de Mortimer Lord of Ludlow, in reſtraining hoſtilities of the Welſh. In 48 the King being obliged to yield to the Barons; Roger de Mortimer was one who undertook to guarantee the regularity of his conduct: But the King ſoon after getting ſtrength, marched to Northampton, and gave the Barons a defeat, Roger de Mortimer being then the chief in the action for the King; and ſoon after being in the fatal battle of Lewis, and diſcerning the day to be loſt, he fled with James de Aldithley, Roger de Clifford, and others of the Baron's Marchers, and fell upon Llewellyn, who had been advancing with his men towards the Caſtle of Ludlow, endeavouring in a clandeſtine manner during the abſence of its Lord to ſeize upon it. Not long after the Barons gaining the aſcendancy, Hugh Mortimer ſurrendered his Caſtle, as well as that of Richard's Caſtle, to John Fitz John; and then the Barons went to Montgomery, where Roger Mortimer, and James de Aldithley were. *(Dugdale.)*

In the turbulent reign of Henry VI. this Caſtle was in the poſſeſſion of the aſpiring Richard Duke of York; who, having aſſembled a large Army in the Marches, ſeemed to threaten the peace of the County with ſome important enterprize. In order to paliate his proceedings, he publiſhed

a declaration, *Dated at his Caſtle of Ludlow, and ſigned with his own hand and ſeal, Jan.* 9*th* 1451, in which he profeſſed his allegiance to King Henry, ſetting forth that his Army was raiſed ſolely for the purpoſe of redreſſing ſome trifling grievances &c ; feeding in this manner the public mind with vague and frivolous excuſes, as an extenuation of his diſhonourable conduct.

Time however diſcloſed his real deſigns ; for ſoon after the defeat of Lord Audley at Blore-Heath, in Staffordſhire, he threw off the maſk he had hitherto worn, openly avowed his pretentions to the throne, and appointed the Caſtle of Ludlow as a place of rendezvous for his adherents, For this act he was attainted of High-Treaſon, by the meeting at Coventry, and the Royal Army then ſtationed at Worceſter, was ordered to march againſt him.

On the approach of the Royaliſts to Ludford, a ſmall vill ſeperated from Ludlow by the River Teme, the Biſhop of Saliſbury was ſent into the Town with an offer of a general amneſty, if they would ſurrender. This being approved of by the Inhabitants, and violently oppoſed by the Soldiers, civil diſſenſions broke out with ſo much animoſity, that a fierce ſkirmiſh enſued between them, in which many of the former were deſtroyed.

Theſe party diſputes tended much to diſcourage the general cauſe, and we ſee in Speed (page 858,) the very ſubmiſſive letter ſent out of the Caſtle to the Chief of the Royal Army. This not meeting with the expected ſucceſs, and the Royaliſts preparing to attack them, the Duke's forces began to diſband, and Sir Andrew Trollop going over by night to the King's Camp with a great body of troops, the Duke of York with his two ſons ſaved themſelves by flight.

On the ſurrender of the place the greateſt part of the garriſon was pardoned; but the Caſtle and Town, as having been the ſcene of ſo many traitorous conſpiracies, ſuffered all the depredations which anger and revenge could excite. The Caſtle was ſtripped of all its coſtly ornaments, and the Town forcibly plundered of every thing valuable. According to the authority of Hale, the Dutches of York with her two youngeſt ſons and her ſiſter were taken in the place, and confined for a long time as priſoners in one of the outer towers.

The Caſtle and Town continued in this diſmantled ſtate until ſome time after the battle of Wakefield, in which Richard was ſlain and many of his followers cruelly put to death, after having

ſurrendered

ſurrendered themſelves to the promiſed mercy of the enemy. This cruel conduct of the Queen's ſo exaſperated his ſon Edward, who at that time reſided in the ſtrong and beautiful Caſtle of Wigmore, that he reſolved to revenge the unfortunate death of his Father.

Having collected ſome troops in the Marches, the Caſtle of Ludlow was peaceably put into his poſſeſſion, and the garriſon eſpouſed his cauſe; being joined afterwards by ſome Welſh troops near Leominſter, he formed a formidable army and kept his flag as a ſignal of rendezvous, flying upon the lofty ſummit of the Keep of Wigmore Caſtle.

The Queen fearful of his riſing power (for at that time the King was but a cypher) diſpatched the Earl of Pembroke with a ſtrong force to oppoſe him. Young Edward marched out from his Caſtle of Wigmore to meet the royal forces, which he did in the plain near Mortimer's Croſs; where a deſperate and bloody battle was fought, the event of which was ſo deciſive in his favour that the ſame year the Duke of York was declared King Edward IV.

We find that Edward, on his acceſſion to the throne, proved particularly partial to a place from

which he had received ſuch powerful aſſiſtance; and, in the firſt year of his reign, granted the firſt Charter of Incorporation to the Town of Ludlow, in which he recites the motives for this mark of royal favour, viz.

"In conſideration of the good and faithful "ſervices which the well-beloved faithful and "liege Burgeſſes of the Town of Ludlow had done "in aid of recovering the right of the Crown in "the great hazard of their lives, and of the ra-"pines, plunders, oppreſſion and grievances they "had ſuffered, and for the bettering and relief of "the Town &c.

Many other royal favours were beſtowed upon it, as appears by this record in Old Print;

"King Edward fourth for ſervice truly done,
"When Henry ſixth and he had mortal war;
"No ſooner he by force the victory wone,
"But with great things the town he did preſarre,
"Gave lands thereto, and libertie full large,
"Which royal gifts his bounty did declare &c.

It alſo appears that Edward exerciſed his munificence in recovering the place from the ſad ſtate of deſolation to which it had been reduced by adhering to his Father's cauſe. Many parts of the Town were rebuilt by the Inhabitants, large ſums were expended upon the Caſtle, and in a few years

years after we find it become the princely reſidence of his eldeſt ſon, who held his court there, in great pomp and ſplendour.

Neither was this Monarch partial to this part of the kingdom thro' the individual motive of ſelf-intereſt; he ſpent all the leiſure time he could ſpare from the weighty occupations of his ſituation, either in the caſtles of Ludlow or Wigmore. Lady Anne Neville, Daughter to the great Earl of Warwick, was his favourite: ſhe kept her court in Wigmore Caſtle, and all that was gay and faſhionable in the adjacent parts of the country reſorted thither to partake of the pleaſures of the place.

This may account as a reaſon why on any emergency Edward generally reſorted into theſe parts to raiſe aſſiſtance; for the Lord's Marchers, tied down to him by repeated favours, acknowledged the ſame intereſts and were animated by the ſame paſſions: connected beſides with their ſovereign by the incidents of tenure, formed by a train of mutual offices and reciprocal attentions, they not only added to his magnificence in time of peace, but proved his greateſt ſecurity in the trying ſeaſons of hoſtility.

On the death of Edward, his Son Edward V. ſucceeded at the age of twelve years. This young

Prince

Prince with his Brother, had, for a conſiderable time before kept his court in Ludlow Caſtle, under the tuition of Lord Anthony Woodville and the Lord Scales, being ſent by his Father, as Hale ſays---" For Juſtice to be dooen in the Marches of " Wales, and that by the authoritie of hys pre- " ſence the wilde Welſhmenne and evil diſpoſed " perſonnes ſhould repair from their accuſtomed " murthers and outrages." But their ambitious Uncle the Duke of Glouceſter, afterwards Richard III. ſent for them from this peaceable aſylum under the pretence of having them crowned; and in order to remove every obſtacle to his ambitious views, cauſed them both to be ſmothered in the tower of London.

Some Hiſtorians aſſert that Edward V. was born in Ludlow Caſtle; but be that as it may, Ludlow or Wigmore gave birth to thoſe two unfortunate Princes.

Little occurs concerning this place during the ſubſequent ſhort reign of Richard: but when the civil feuds between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, which had ſo long diſturbed the peace of the Kingdom, ſubſided by the marriage of Henry VII. with the eldeſt Daughter of Edward IV. then the period was approaching when this caſtle

was

was once more to recover its priſtine pomp and magnificence.

Arthur, eldeſt ſon of Henry VII. held a ſplendid court at Ludlow, upon his marriage with Catharine of Arragon; a Princeſs not more diſtinguiſhed by her amiable manners, than by the long ſeries of misfortunes which attended her from her arrival in England to the time of her death. Many curious particulars relating to this marriage may be ſeen in Speed, and in the hiſtory of the reign of Henry VIII. by Lord Herbert of Chirbury. Prince Arthur died in Ludlow Caſtle Anno 1502. "His body, ſays Speed, "being buried with due funeral ſolemnities in "the Cathedral Church of St. Maries, Wor-"ceſter; where in the ſouth iſle of the quire "he remaineth entombed in touch or jettè, with-"out remembrance of him by picture."

The eſtabliſhment of the Court of the Marches for the Principality of Wales, which conduced ſo much to increaſe the ſplendour of the Caſtle, and to the general aggrandizement of the town of Ludlow, was inſtituted and appointed in the year 1509, during the reign of Henry VIII. This court conſiſted of a Lord Preſident, as many Counſellors as the Prince pleaſed, a Secretary,

Secretary, an Attorney, a Solicitor, and four Juſtices for the counties of Wales.

The power of this Court was very extenſive, its juriſdiction extending over the populous Counties of north and ſouth Wales; and as this was the only place in this part of the kingdom, where the claims of Juſtice could be properly aſcertained, and litigious quarrels finally adjuſted, numberleſs muſt have been the ſuitors conſtantly thronging to it from different parts of the Principality. All public proceedings, as appears from the records of that period, were tranſacted with great pomp and magnificence; to augment which the reſidence of the Lord Preſident was highly acceſſary. The ſumptuous Court he was obliged to keep in the Caſtle preſented an air of grandour and majeſty; perhaps, not ſo much intended to ſupport a mere exterior ſhew, as to impreſs the public mind with no ſmall degree of reverence and reſpect.

The firſt perſon we find inveſted with the office of Preſident was ROWLAND LEE, Biſhop of Coventry and Litchfield. During his Preſidency the Welſh were incorporated with the Engliſh; in the formation of which Union we find this worthy Biſhop to have been very active. The information he gave

concerning

concerning the oppreſſive mode of adminiſtering Juſtice in the Marches of Wales, cauſed him to be much noticed by his Sovereign; by whom he was ſelected as a proper perſon to ſuperintend ſo important a buſineſs. Henry the Eighth was certainly a vicious character; yet, as bad qualities are often united with great talents, we generally find him to have exerciſed great ſkill in the ſelection of *many* of his Miniſters, and the appointment of this Prelate to the Lord Preſidency is an evident example. Neither can a Prince ſhew a greater inſtance of his good underſtanding than by having near his perſon men celebrated for their wiſdom and integrity; for at the ſame time that they eaſe him of the tedious weight of buſineſs, they hinder him from falling into the ordinary embarraſſments to which ignorance and prejudice are oftentimes ſubject. Moreover, we never find that the excellency of a Miniſter has ever diminiſhed the glory of a Sovereign. Soon after this Biſhop had the happineſs to accompliſh this deſirable project, he died Anno 1544, and was buried in St. Chads, Shrewſbury. RICHARD SAMPSON, Biſhop of Cheſter who ſucceeded him, dying the ſame year, was replaced by JOHN LORD DUDLEY, afterwards Duke of Northumberland. This Noble-

man assisted Lady Jane Grey in her pretentions to the Crown in opposition to Queen Mary, for which act he was beheaded,

Sir WILLIAM HERBERT, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, became Lord President; but enjoying that dignity but a very short time, NICHOLAS HEATH, Bishop of Worcester, afterwards Archbishop of York, and Lord High Chancellor of England, was invested with the dignity. On his death Sir William Herbert was again appointed; to whom succeeded GILBERT BROWN, Bishop of Bath and Wells. After him came Sir JOHN WILLIAMS, Lord Williams of Tame, who died during the first year of his appointment.

Sir HENRY SIDNEY attained that important situation A. D. 1564. This Nobleman during his Presidency, seems to have borne an amiable and much respected character, which he obtained as much by the urbanity of his manners, as by a strict administration of justice, and a careful attention to the provincial interests of the country over which he presided. He not only appears to have been an able Judge, and a gallant Commander, but to have been possessed of habits of thought and reflection for the common weal, which much endeared him to the public. He frequently visited

the

the adjacent towns, ſcrutinizing the outward order and management of charitable inſtitutions, which he always aſſiſted with a princely liberality. Happineſs he had, (as a writer of the 16th Century obſerves) ſince he aimed at the ſureſt method of attaining it, by endeavouring to make others poſſeſs it; for, as a true lover of mankind, he always ſhared in the felicity of that people, which reaped ſo much from his honourable and humane conduct.

In the Hiſtory and Antiquities of Shrewſbury, (by Phillips) is recorded from the original MS. an account of Sir Henry Sidney's viſit and reception at Shrewſbury; which as it has been ſo often quoted and would increaſe the limits of this ſmall treatiſe too much, I muſt refer the reader to the paſſage itſelf, as affording a ſimple and elegant delineation of the manners of the age in which he lived.

He died at Bewdley 1584; and, with a deſignation ſufficiently trifling on ſo ſerious an occaſion, ordered his heart to be buried at Shrewſbury, his bowels at Bewdley, and his body at Ludlow, in the tomb of his favourite daughter Ambroſia, who died in that Caſtle. The leaden Urn, which contained his heart, was ſometime ago in the

poſſeſſion of Edward Coleman Eſq. of Leominſter: it was about ſix inches deep, and five inches in diameter at the top, and the following inſcription running three times round it.

HER LITH THE HARTE OF
SYR HENRY SYDNEY L. P.
Anno Domni, 1586.

A very exact drawing of it by Mr. S. Nicholas, an ingenious Gentleman of Leominſter, was engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for September, 1794. To this Sir Henry Sidney ſucceeded his Son-in-Law, HENRY, Earl of Pembroke; after whom EDWARD LORD ZOUCH, was Lord Preſident; who was replaced by RALPH, LORD EURE, to whoſe memory there is an inſcription in Ludlow Church. After his death, Sir JOHN EGERTON, Son of the Lord Chancellor Egerton, created afterwards Duke of Bridgewater, preſided here in the year 1638, (as appears from Rymer's Fædera) being appointed to that dignity by King Charles the I.

About this period, it is upon record, that King Charles the I. was received at the Caſtle of Ludlow with an unparalleled pomp and magnificence. An old MS. ſays, "*That he entered the Caſtle among the diſcharges of the great Guns and Firelocks the Soldiers, attended by all the other Officers magnificently*

magnificently dreſſed and mounted, and ſo great was the pomp, that the like thereof was never before ſeen in theſe parts." The mere recital of this Royal viſit to Ludlow would doubtleſs of itſelf appear trifling, did not the ſplendid manner in which he was there received, preſent a ſtriking contraſt with the future treatment of that unfortunate Monarch. It may alſo ſerve as a leſſon to remind mankind of the inſtability of public favour, and how ſudden and unexpected the tranſition oftentimes is, from the height of felicity to the oppoſite extreme of human miſery.

It does not appear that this town ſuffered much during the civil diſſenſions. Sundry partial engagements took place in the neighbourhood of Ludlow, in one of which Sir William Croft, of of Croft Caſtle, loſt his life, June 9th 1645. It happened near Stokeſay, whither his Majeſty's forces were obliged to retreat, with the loſs of this gallant Gentleman and ſome others.

During the preſidency of Lord Bridgwater was written the celebrated Maſk of Comus, concerning which Wharton in his Edition of Milton's Works gives nearly the following account.

I have been informed that Lord Bridgewater, being appointed Lord Preſident of Wales about

the

the year 1634, entered upon his official reſidence at Ludlow Caſtle with great ſolemnity. On this occaſion he was attended by a large concourſe of the neighbouring Nobility and Gentry; among the reſt came his Children, in particular Lord Brackley, Mr. Thomas Egerton and Lady Alice, ----------To attend their Father's ſtate, and new intruſted ſceptre.----------
They had been on a viſit at a houſe of the Egerton family in Herefordſhire, and in paſſing thro' Haywood Foreſt were benighted, and the Lady Alice was even loſt for a ſhort time. This accident, which in the end was attended with no bad conſequence, furniſhed the ſubject of a maſk for a Michaelmas feſtivity, and produced Comus. If this was the caſe, our Maſk could not have been performed on occaſion of Lord Bridgewater's taking poſſeſſion of the Caſtle.

Henry Lawes, who ſet it to muſic performed the character of the attendant ſpirit. As to the form in which it was ſet to muſic, whether recitative or otherwiſe, there is nothing extant that tends to ſatisfy the curious enquirer.

From the MS. in Lawes's hand writing, it appears, that the two ſongs, *Sweet Echo*, and *Sabrina fair*, with three paſſages in the Poem, *Back Shepherds*,

Shepherds, Back ;---To the Ocean now I fly ;---Now my taſk is ſmoothly done ; was the whole of the original muſic.

The patronage of the Earl of Bridgewater, in this early part of Milton's life, reflects no ſmall degree of honour on this illuſtrious Nobleman ; who, in this juvenile performance, diſcovered the dawn of that genius, which was at a future period ſo eminently to diſtinguiſh the Author of Paradiſe Loſt.

On the deceaſe of this Nobleman in 1649-50, Richard Lord Vaughan, Earl of Carbury, ſucceeded to the dignity of Lord Preſident : during his time the Caſtle was kept as a garriſon for King Charles, until it was delivered up to the Parliamentary army. Here again, amidſt the noiſe and buſtle of civil diſſenſions, we find this worthy Nobleman encourage genius, and afford a comfortable aſylum to the ſatirical Author of Hudribras.

Dr. Johnſon, in his Life of Butler informs us, that at the Reſtoration, in which Loyalty hoped for its reward, Butler was only made Secretary to the Earl of Carbury, who was at that time Preſident of the Principality of Wales, and who farther conferred on him the Stewardſhip of the Caſtle,

Caſtle, a very honourable and lucrative place. It was in this part of his life that he married Mrs. Herbert; and it ſeems moſt probable that during the comforts which his matrimonial engagements and the patronage of Lord Carbury afforded him at Ludlow, that he gave the laſt poliſh to his Poem.

In 1663, was publiſhed the firſt part containing three Cantos, and in the year following the ſecond part appeared. It ſeems farther probable, that Butler was allured from his quiet retreat in Ludlow Caſtle, to receive that reward, which every one expected would have been conferred on the Author of a Poem, which the King quoted, the Courtiers ſtudied, and the whole party of Royaliſts applauded. The event however proves that he quitted a certainty for ſomething leſs ſubſtantial. *See Johnſon's Life of Butler, who thus ſums up our Poet's perſonal hiſtory.*---" In the midſt of obſcurity " paſſed the life of Butler; a man whoſe name " can only periſh with his language. The date " of his birth is doubtful, the mode and place " of his education are unknown, the events of " his life are variouſly related, and all that can be " told with certainty is, that he was poor."

HENRY, Marquis of Worceſter, was Preſident in

in 1673; to whom ſucceeded PRINCE RUPERT, who dying in 1682, HENRY SOMERSET, Duke of Beaufort, was appointed by King James II. in 1684; who was replaced by Sir JOHN BRIDGEMAN, whoſe character is delineated in the following anecdote related in Philips's Hiſtory of Shrewſbury.

"He was a very ſevere man, frequently committing perſons to the Porter's Lodge, (which "was the Priſon of the Court near the entrance "into the Caſtle) for very ſmall crimes, on whom "one Ralph Gittins, who had probably experienced "his ſeverity, compoſed the following diſtich:

"Here lies Sir John Bridgeman, clad in his clay,
"God ſaid to the Devil, Sirrah, take him away."

He was buried in Ludlow Church. After him, CHARLES, EARL OF MACCLESFIELD, ſucceeded to the dignity, and was the laſt Preſident of Ludlow Caſtle: for in the firſt year of William and Mary, it was diſſolved by act of Parliament, *being*, (as therein recited) *a great grievance to the ſubject*; and as a celebrated Writer obſerves, "It had "proved an intolerable burthen to Wales and the "borders at all times, and a means to introduce "an arbitrary power, eſpecially in the late reign,

" when a new convert family were at the head
" of it; nor could the Earl of Macclesfield, the
" laſt Preſident who kept his Court at Ludlow,
" reduce it to ſuch order, as to ceaſe to be a
" grievance, and therefore it was diſſolved.

THE CASTLE.

THE CASTLE.

SECT. II.

THO' Roger de Montgomery is generally allowed to have been the Founder of this Caſtle, ſtill after mature conſideration we may venture to conjecture that it was too large and extenſive a building to have been erected by an individual. It may therefore be ſuppoſed that great part of it was built by that Nobleman, and the reſt added during ſucceſſive periods by others; tho' the particulars relating thereto, are probably loſt in the general wreck of time.

During the Preſidency of Sir Henry Sidney, great additions were made to this Caſtle, in order to render it a ſituation ſuitable to the power and dignity of the Lord Preſident of Wales. In old works much mention and commendatory praiſe is paſſed on him for his expenſive and well-judged improvements, and a note in a Poem in old print gives ſome account of his proceedings.

"Now is to be rehearſed that Henry Sydney
"being Lord Preſident, made a goodly wardrobe

" underneath the new parlour, and repaired an " old tower, called *Mortimer's Tower*, to keep the " ancient records in the ſame, and he repaired a " fair room under the Court Houſe to the ſame " intent and purpoſe, and made a great wall about " the wood-yard, and built a moſt brave Conduit " within the inner Court, and all the new buildings " over the gate, (in his daies and government " there) made and ſet out to the honour of the " Queene and glorie of the Caſtle."

The arms of the Sidney Family are ſtill remaining over the ſouth-eaſt door leading into the interior of the Caſtle, with the following inſcription:

HOMINIBUS INGRATIS LOQUIMINI
LAPIDES.----ANNO REGNI REGINÆ
ELIZABETHÆ 23.----THE 28 YEAR
COPLET OF THE RESIDENCE
OF SYR HENRY SYDNEY KNIGHT
OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE
GARTER, 1581

" The greateſt rarity of Ludlow," ſays Stukely in his Itinerary, &c. " is the noble and ſtrong " Caſtle and Palace, placed in the north-weſt angle " of the Town upon a rock, commanding a de-

" lightful

" lightful proſpect northward; but on the weſt,
" where runs the river, it is overlooked by a
" high hill. 'Tis ſtrongly environed by embattled
" walls of great height and thickneſs, with towers
" at convenient diſtances: that half, which is
" within the walls of the Town, is ſecured more-
" over with a deep ditch, the other founded on
" the ſolid rock. It is divided into two ſeparate
" parts: the Caſtle, properly ſpeaking, wherein
" are the Palace and Lodgings; and the green or
" outwork, which, I ſuppoſe, they call the
" BARBICAN: the firſt is in the ſtrongeſt or
" north-weſt corner, and hath likewiſe walls and
" ditches hewn out of the rock towards the green.
" This was the reſidence of the Lords Preſidents;
" 'twas a noble ſtructure; but now alas! only
" groans out with its laſt breath the gloryes of
" its ancient ſtate. The Green takes in a large
" compaſs of ground, wherein was formerly the
" Court of Judicature and Records, the Stables,
" Garden, Bowling-green and other offices, all
" which now lie in ruins &c." So far Stukely, who has alſo given two views and a very exact Ichnography of this ancient Caſtle.

At the preſent time this fine ſtructure lies in all

all the magnificence of ruins; yet ſo as to preſent an ample delineation of the majeſty of the building when in the zenith of it's ſplendour. The different towers, the walls of prodigious thickneſs, the grand entrance into the interior are to this day tolerably well preſerved; and when we conſider the ſelect ſituation of this Caſtle, its grandeur and extent and the fine ſpecies of architecture in which it is built, (now quite out of uſe,) the whole will be found worthy of minute attention. I believe that few people, who think at all, can obſerve this fine fabric with indifference; for the ſight of ſuch a venerable remnant of antiquity, feeds the imagination with ideas of the ſplendid ſcenes once enjoyed within its walls; and when we compare its preſent with its former magnificent ſtate, it affords a ſtriking veſtige of the power of the deſtroying hand of Time over the ſtrongeſt and moſt beautiful fabrics erected by the art of man.

Ludlow Caſtle, (as a modern writer obſerves) ſhews plainly in its decay, what it was once in its flouriſhing ſtate. It is the Palace of the Prince of Wales, in right of his principality; its ſituation is indeed moſt beautiful; there is a moſt ſpacious plain or lawn in its front, which formerly

merly contained nearly two miles, but much of it is now incloſed. The country round it is exceedingly pleaſant, fertile and populous, and the ſoil rich. Nothing can be added to it by nature, to make it a place fit for a Royal Palace. It is built in the north-weſt angle of the Town upon a rock, commanding a delightful proſpect northward, and the weſt is ſhaded by a hill and waſhed by the river.

A Chapel here had abundance of coats-of-arms in the panels; as had the Hall, together with lances, ſpears, firelocks and old armour.

All the fine Courts, the Royal Apartments, Halls and Rooms of State, lie open and abandoned, and ſome of them falling down; for ſince the Courts of the Preſidents of the Marches are taken away, here is nothing that requires the attendance of any public perſons; ſo that Time, the great devourer of the works of Men, begins to eat into the ſtone walls, and to ſpread the face of ruin upon the whole fabric.

SECT. III.

PRESENT STATE OF THE TOWN.

THE Town of Ludlow, a place of great fame and antiquity, is ſituate on an eminence in the midſt of a fine fertile country. Towards the north the River Corve winds down a pleaſant valley, and uniting itſelf with the Teme, ſurrounds the weſt and ſouth ſides of the Town. The latter is fettered with numerous dams acroſs it, in nature of cataracts, by which means a number of Mills are turned, and the ſuperfluous water powering over them, (caſcade like) adds a very conſiderable and pleaſing variety to the general ſcenery contiguous to the Town.

The ſoil on which it is built, is partly rocky, and partly a hard dry gravel: and as it riſes on three ſides to a conſiderable height by a gradual aſcent from the banks of the rivers, it is always dry and remarkably clean.

It was formerly ſurrounded with a wall a mile in compaſs, part of which ſtill remains tho' much injured by the ravages of Time, with towers at proper diſtances, and ſeven handſome gates or ports; Leland in his Itinerary only mentions five, *Broad-Gate* which leadeth to Broad-Street, the fayreſt part of the Town; *Old-Gate*, is alſo towards Teme, as Broad-Gate is, but not ſo near; *Goalfort-Gate*: *Corve-Gate* leading towards the left bank of Corve River and *Mille-Gate*. Of theſe gates only one is now ſtanding, the others having been removed with the intention of improving the different avenues to the Town.

It is about a mile in length, and in the broadeſt part more than half a mile in breadth. The number of houſes and inhabitants contained, is as follows, made from an exact calculation; which, as it might ſatisfy the public curioſity, was purpoſely made for this little production.

	Houſes.	*Inh.*
Broad-ſtreet	62	390
Lower Broad-ſtreet &c. . . .	38	200
Brand-lane	14	51
Bell-lane	15	71
Raven-lane	28	126

	Houſes---	*Inh.*
Mill-ſtreet	54	232
Dinham &c.	44	154
Caſtle-ſtreet	24	114
High-ſtreet or the Row &c. . .	27	165
King-ſtreet, the Bull-ring &c. .	52	322
Corve-ſtreet and St. Mary's Lane	110	561
Upper-Goalfort &c.	52	257
Lower Ditto	54	300
Old-ſtreet	40	204
Old-Gate's Fee, &c.	62	270
Church-yard, College &c. . .	26	148
Total.....	702	3565

So that the whole number of the Inhabitants of Ludlow may be aſcertained at nearly 3565 perſons of both ſexes, to which if we add 17 houſes and 77 Inhabitants in the Pariſh of Ludford, will make 719 houſes, and 3642 Inhabitants, out of which number, as may eaſily be verified from a calculation formed upon a general average, about three fifths are females.

The ſtreets are neatly paved and lighted, and the projections of the houſes removed in a manner highly agreeable to foot paſſengers. Theſe improve-

ments

ments may be aſcribed to the munificence of the Members for the Borough and ſome of the neighbouring Gentlemen, as alſo to the enterpriſing ſpirit of the Inhabitants; but principally, I imagine, to the exertions of the Corporation, to whoſe generoſity the Town is indebted for the greateſt part of its uſeful and ornamental ſtructures.

The public buildings are the CROSS; a handſome ſtone building, and very convenient for market people, being ſituate at the top of the Broad-ſtreet, nearly in the centre of the town. The rooms over it are appropriated to the very laudable purpoſe of a public ſchool, for the inſtruction of 30 poor Boys and 15 poor Girls, who are clothed and have books &c. given to them. The Boys when at a proper age, are put out Apprentices, with a ſmall premium, the whole ſupported by voluntary ſubſcription. The MARKET-HOUSE, is a neat ſtructure in the middle of the Caſtle-ſtreet, the area of which ſerves as a corn-market; the upper rooms, which are extenſive, are frequently uſed for Corporation Meetings, and occaſionally for the Bailiff's Balls, Subſcription Aſſemblies &c. The GUILD-HALL is a very elegant modern building, erected at the expence of the Corporation, and ſituate in the Mill-

ſtreet: The Hall, in which ſundry meetings of the Corporation, Quarter-Seſſions &c. are holden, is large and commodiouſly adapted to the purpoſe. There is alſo a Priſon, called GOALFORT'S TOWER, erected in the year 1764, at the expence of the Corporation; which, with other uſeful works in and near the Town built by the ſame body, are evident proofs of a liberal and enterpriſing ſpirit.

SITUATION.

If we examine Ludlow in reference to its ſituation, we ſhall find it beautiful indeed; inſomuch that it has been deemed by experienced judges to be ſuperior to that of any other inland Town in the kingdom. Placed on an eminence in the midſt of a luxuriant country, it always appears a fine diſtant object from the different parts of the adjacent diſtrict. Neither is the interior of the Town inferior to its outward appearance, for the greateſt part of it is well built, and the public ſtructures remarkably neat. The ſtreets are clean and ſufficiently broad, ſo as to admit of a free circulation of air, which muſt certainly tend in no ſmall degree to increaſe the natural ſalubrity of the place,

Tho' there are numerous delightful walks in the

the vicinity of Ludlow, yet as thoſe round the Caſtle are undoubtedly pre-eminent, and by being contiguous to the Town, are now reſorted to as a faſhionable *promenade*, ſome mention ſhould undoubtedly be made of them.

The gravel walks round the venerable remains of Ludlow Caſtle were laid out at the expence of the Counteſs of Powis, in the year 1772. They are ſhaded by ſome fine trees, which are literally according to the Poet,

"From ſtorms a ſhelter and from heat a ſhade."

Nor are they leſs remarkable for their variety and elegance, than for the numerous beautiful landſcapes ſeen from them, which muſt certainly ſurpriſe the Traveller with their unparalleled magnificence and plenty. The opening towards the north preſents various meanderings of the Teme, with the ſeat of Oakley Park peeping between the trees, terminated in different directions by the Clee Hills, and the celebrated Caer Caradoc and other hills neat Stretton. The other view towards the weſt preſents objects much nearer, and at the ſame time offers to the eye the combined charms of rock, wood, and water: from this point indeed, the woods on the ſummit of the hill, the White-

cliff

cliff rocks and the River running with great rapidity at their baſis are ſcenes not only in themſelves agreeable, but true ſpecimens of pictureſque beauty.

Here are thy walks, O ſacred Health,
The Monarch's bliſs, the Beggar's wealth;
The ſeaſ'ning of all good below,
The ſov'reign friend in joy or woe.

Many other favourite walks ſuch as over the Whitecliff oppoſite to the Caſtle, Hackluyt's Cloſe contigious to the upper road to Leominſter, a walk to the ſouth-eaſt of the Town near the banks of the River Teme, and ſundry others at the various exits from the Town are very pleaſant and at eaſy diſtances.

Among the many rides in the vicinity of Ludlow, one is remarkably pleaſing, and has been particularly noticed by judicious Travellers; it paſſes near Oakley Park, croſſing the Teme by Downton Caſtle, and from thence thro' the extenſive woods along the new road to Ludlow; the whole comprehending not much more than ten miles yet affording ſuch a charming variety of rich ſcenery and rural beauty as can very ſeldom indeed be ſurpaſſed by the combined efforts of nature and art.

GOVERNMENT.

Edward the IV. incorporated the Town, as has been already obſerved. King Charles I. granted another Charter with a confirmation of the ancient rights of the Burgeſſes. By deed enrolled in Chancery 35 Charles II. the Corporation ſurrendered their franchiſes to the Crown. King James granted a new Charter by the name of Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council, with a power of removal. In 1690 the Corporation petitioned for a reſtoration of their ancient rights which they obtained.

It is governed by a Recorder, two Bailiffs, two capital Juſtices, twelve Aldermen, twenty-five Common Council Men, Town Clerk, Coroner and ſeveral other inferior Officers. The election of the Bailiffs is generally attended with great magnificence and conviviality even to a proverb. The Balls which are afterwards, one for the High, the other for the Low Bailiff, to which a numerous and ſelect Company from the Town and Country is always liberally invited, are ſupported with a ſplendour and expence, which is not to be ſeen in any other place in this part of the Kingdom.

It ſends two Members to Parliament, the right of election being reſident in the common Burgeſſes (26 Feb. 1661) in number about 500. It was reſolved that the Sons of Burgeſſes of Ludlow, and thoſe that marry the Daughters of Burgeſſes have a right to be made Burgeſſes; and that every perſon having a right to be made a Burgeſs, ought to demand the ſame by petition, ſigned by the petitioner according to the Bye Law in 1663, and no otherwiſe.

TRADE.

Ludlow cannot boaſt of any particular Manufactory carried on upon a large ſcale; the beſt part of the Town being inhabited by genteel families, attracted thither probably by the healthy ſituation of the place. The chief Trade it carries on conſiſts in the article of Gloves, in which a great number of perſons of both ſexes are employed. As this branch is continually fluctuating it would be futile to attempt to make any exact calculation, as to the profit derived from it by the Town at large; ſo far at leaſt it proves uſeful, that by enriching individuals, it increaſes the public wealth, and proves extremely ſerviceable to the lower claſſes of Society, by affording an

eaſy

eaſy and comfortable employment for the induſtrious poor.

Beſides this, we find much buſineſs done in the Tanning, Timber and Cabinet-making line; and as it is a conſiderable Town towards Wales, we find a number of very opulent Tradeſmen, and excellent Artiſans in the different branches of Mechaniſm. It receives great advantage from its thoroughfare to Wales; and as a celebrated writer obſerves, its Inhabitants are much noticed for their politeneſs.

For the accommodation of the Public and the benefit of Trade, there is a Bank under the firm of Kinnerſley, Wellings and Co. where buſineſs of every branch in the banking line is punctually and honourably executed.

The market-day is on a Monday; tho' there are alſo inferior markets on Wedneſday, Friday and Saturday. The Fairs a ſix in number; Monday before Feb. 13th, Tueſday before Eaſter, and Wedneſday in Whitſuntide week, for horned Cattle, Horſes, woollen and linen Cloths and Pigs: Auguſt 21ſt, September 28th, December 6th, for Hops and Fat Hogs.

SECT. IV.

CHURCH, CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS &c.

THERE is only one Parish Church belonging to this Town, which is dedicated to St. Laurence; the exact time when it was founded, I cannot properly ascertain, tho' it is certainly a very ancient and elegant structure. It is built on high ground and placed in the middle of the Town, but being mostly surrounded by houses, cannot be seen to advantage.

The Tower which is fine and lofty, rises to a great height, adding considerable beauty to many prospects from the neighbouring Country. Its form is square, and the upper part of it, near the battlements, was adorned with highly-finished statues of saints &c. These were deemed by Oliver Cromwell's Officers, when they were possessed of this Town, superfluous and irreligious, and were accordingly either much mutilated or entirely destroyed. Numbers of similar works in various parts of the Church suffered the same fate.

It

It is a Rectory in the King's gift, amounting with ſundry contingences to about 200 pounds per Annum. There is a Reader and Lecturer, and prayers are read thrice a day during the ſummer months. It is in the Biſhoprick of Hereford, and Ludlow is the capital of this part of Shropſhire in that Dioceſs, the Archdeacon's Courts and offices being kept there.

Concerning this Church thus writes Leland, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII.---"*There "is but one Pariſh Church in the Towne, but that "is very fayre and large, and richly adorned and "taken for the fayreſt in all theſe quarters. It "ſtandeth in the middeſt of the Towne, and is in "the higheſt ground of it. This Church has been "much advanced by a Brotherhood therein founded, "in the name of St. John the Evangeliſt, the origi-"nal thereof was (as the people ſay there) in the "tyme of King Edward the Confeſſor, and it is "conſtantly affirmed there, that the Pilgrims that "brought the ringe from beyond the ſea, as a "token from St. John the Evangeliſt, were the In-"habitants of Ludlow.*"

There is an Alm's Houſe near the Churchyard; it is a neat handſome ſtructure containing thirty-three very comfortable apartments. It was

founded (as the inſcription over it informs us,) by Mr. John Hoſier, a Merchant, in the year 1486; but being much damaged during ſo long a period of time, was rebuilt in the year 1758 at the expence of the Corporation; and at the ſame time that it pleaſes the public mind by ſo judicious a diſpoſal of property, ſerves as a public monument of beneficence and well-applied charity. There is alſo another ſmaller Alm's Houſe, nearly at the bottom of Corve-ſtreet, built in the year 1590.

There were undoubtedly numerous other religious houſes and monaſteries in Ludlow; one Priory in particular with its Chapel contiguous to the north part of the Caſtle, (part of which is ſtill remaining.) Leland makes mention of ſome others;

"*There was formerly on the north ſide of the "bridge, a Church of St. John, ſtanding without "Broad-Gate, which had a College with a Dean "and Fellows of the foundation of Jordan of Lud-"ford;---There were two Colleges one of which a "fayre and coſtly thinge, was ſituate towards the "bottom of Corve-ſtreet, and was founded by one "William de Ludlow Kt. and Lord of Stoke Caſtle.*"

Stukely makes mention of it,---"*There was a rich "Priory out of the Town on the north ſide, ſmall "ruins now to be ſeen, excepting a little adjoining*

"*Church,*

"*Church, once belonging to it: about the ſame place,* "*an arched gateway went acroſs the ſtreet, but* "*now demoliſhed.*"---The Auſtin Friars ſtood without Goalfort-Gate.

There were many other ſimilar foundations, but particulars concerning them, as they are few and unintereſting, ſhall be totally omitted.

Edward the IV. founded here a Grammar School, the revenues of which have been at different times conſiderably improved; and ſome valuable exhibitions in the Univerſity of Oxford are alſo annexed to it. Its preſent condition under the Rev. J. Thomas is flouriſhing, and from his talents and care is likely to be very much increaſed. Beſides a regular claſſical education and preparation for the Univerſity, the French and Italian languages and other faſhionable accompliſhments are taught by proper Maſters. Ludlow indeed, from its healthy ſituation, ſeems to be as ſelect a ſpot for the inſtruction of youth as can well be choſen. There is alſo a very genteel Ladies' Boarding-School in Dinham, kept by Miſs Hurſt.

SECT. V.

TOWNS, VILLAGES AND SEATS, IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LUDLOW.

As the original deſign of this work was to introduce the Stranger and Traveller to moſt things worthy of their attention in the neighbourhood of Ludlow, it certainly would be unpardonable to neglect giving ſome information concerning the many beautiful ſeats of the Nobility and Gentry, with other places of note, in the vicinity of the Town. Brevity muſt undoubtedly be attended to, yet ſo as to give a conciſe account, ſufficient to ſatisfy common inquiries concerning the chief places worthy of notice, I will therefore begin with that plan, commencing towards the north-weſt up the current of the River Teme, taking whatſoever ſhould occur afterwards with ſome little regularity, yet without any *ſtrict* regard to the ſhorteſt rout.

OAKLEY PARK.

This is the elegant ſeat of Dowager Lady Clive, a moſt worthy and reſpectable character. It lies at

at rather more than two miles to the north-weſt of Ludlow, in a charming ſituation on the banks of the Teme; the contiguous Park is well ſtocked with numbers of fine old Oaks, the venerable ſons of the Foreſt, which add conſiderably to the rich ſcenery of the place. It made part of that foreſt (as Lord Littleton ſays) which Milton, in his Maſk, ſuppoſes to have been inhabited by Comus and his rout: and the former is thus made to addreſs the Lady,

----------Hail foreign wonder,
Whom certain theſe rough ſhades did never breed,
Unleſs the Goddeſs that in rural ſhrine
Dwell'ſt here with Pan, or Silvan, by bleſt ſong
Forbidding every bleak unkindly fog,
To touch the proſperous growth of this tall wood.

Certainly there are many ſcenes which not only Comus, but the Lady of Milton's Maſk, would have taken delight in; for the grounds around are extremely romantic and beautiful, and the plantations near the houſe are laid out with great taſte and judgment, to the pleaſing variety of which the meanderings of the River add very conſiderably. The views in different directions are various, and fine ſelect ſubjects; one towards the ſouth-eaſt preſenting a diſtant proſpect of Ludlow Caſtle &c. is peculiarly rich.

The

The greater part of the manſion is of modern conſtruction, is well furniſhed and contains ſome fine pictures, one of which in the dining-room 15 feet 6 by 8 feet 3 (by Wenix) purchaſed by the late Lord Clive, is extremely beautiful and very valuable.

The lovers of improvement in Agriculture will doubtleſs be much pleaſed with the ſcene which the northern ſide of the River, oppoſite to Oakley Park, preſents. It ſometime ago conſiſted of a tract of paſture ground of no great value; but having been drained and ſupplied with flood-gates, has ſuch a command of water, that the whole of the river Oney can be thrown over it. The produce, as may be eaſily imagined, has been amazingly increaſed. This example ſet by Lord Clive ſhould ſtimulate the neighbouring Gentlemen to ſtudy ſuch improvements; which, without running that riſk to which other ſpeculative ſchemes are ſubject, muſt ultimately prove ſo beneficial to their individual intereſts.

At a ſmall diſtance on the northern ſide of the Teme is the pleaſant village of

BROMFIELD.

BROMFIELD.

Where formerly was a Priory or Cell of Monks belonging to Glouceſter Abbey, which had Prebendaries. They were of the Benedictine order: we find (Anno 1155) the Canons of it, by the authority and with the concurrence of Theobald Archbiſhop of Canterbury, gave their Church to the Abbey of St. Peter's at Glouceſter: and that King Henry II. much about the ſame time, confirmed all the eſtates belonging to it, (under the title of the church of St. Mary of Bromfield) to the Priors and Monks there ſerving God, to hold of him and his Heirs in perpetual alms. King Henry III. made the like confirmation to it. The revenues at the ſuppreſſion were valued at 87*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* per Annum.

The houſe ſtood between Oney and Teme; the latter of which was neareſt to it. Oney paſſed by the back part of the orchard, almoſt touching it with its left bank, and a little beneath was the confluence of the two rivers. It muſt have been a fine ſequeſtered ſpot, and as ſuch, no wonder that it was ſelected as a choſen place of retirement by perſons who wiſhed to withdraw themſelves from the buſy ſcenes of

life. All that now remains of this extenſive building is an Arch near the Church-yard, which, in all probability, made part of the ancient grand entrance.

About two miles up the current of Teme, thro' a fine country and about four from Ludlow, is

DOWNTON CASTLE.

This is the ſeat of Richard Payne Knight Eſq. well known in the literary world by ſundry productions, and one of the worthy repreſentatives in Parliament for the Borough of Ludlow. The manſion is built upon a noble terrace riſing up from the banks of the Teme, and commands a moſt bewitching variety of landſcape ſcenery. The antique mode of a Caſtle ſeems to have been followed in the erection, the angles terminating in towers of different forms, capped with battlements. It is *unique* of its kind, and one ſingularity ſeems particularly worthy of notice, that whereas other buildings are often made to pleaſe by their outward ſhew, the chief beauty of this is derived from the charming irregularity of its parts, the whole of the exterior with regard to the diſpoſition of light &c. being entirely made

ſubſervient

ſubſervient to the interior diſpoſition of the rooms, which are laid out with great judgment and ſuperbly finiſhed. The whole expence of the building is ſaid to have exceeded 52000 pounds.

As to the taſte in laying out the grounds, here Nature diſplays all her charms and the ſublime and beautiful ardently vie with each other, which ſhall moſt attract the attention of the beholder. The walks are beautifully arranged, and extend many miles on each ſide of the river from the Alpine Bridge under the lofty rock near the Mill, to the Forge, near which another very handſome Bridge is erected, ſurmounted with battlements in imitation of the mode of building uſed in the Caſtle.

The ſucceſſion of pictureſque ſcenery which theſe walks preſent is various and highly intereſting, to which a great quantity of noble timber, moſtly oak, proves a very conſiderable addition. In many parts, Mr. Knight has cauſed a number of rural ſeats to be placed, and in ſuch favourite ſpots, that they ſeem to be put as hints to ſpectators not to avoid the beautiful picture before them. In ſhort the diſpoſition of this houſe &c. would do honour to the greateſt Architect,

and it is at the ſame time a convincing proof how far genius may be able to exert itſelf, when regulated by ſound judgment, and improved by a ſtrict attention to the dictates of nature. Fortunate it is for the lovers of natural landſcape, that theſe charming grounds are in the poſſeſſion of a Gentleman, well verſed in the practical as well as theoritic knowledge of pictureſque beauty, and whoſe opulence enables him to put in execution his elegant and judicious improvements.

Mr. Shaw, in his Tour, writes as follows concerning this celebrated place;---"This Gentle-
"man having ſeen moſt of the beſt edifices both
"ancient and modern, and being endowed with
"natural fondneſs for the architecture of caſtles
"&c. was determined to raiſe, from divers hints
"he had collected from the various ſtiles of build-
"ing, ſomething to reſemble the habitations of the
"ancient Barons, more particular than could be
"found elſewhere. In this he has ſucceeded ſo as
"to be the admiration of all viſitors. No leſs
"a ſum than 60000 pounds has been expended
"for that purpoſe.---"Downton Caſtle, ſays Mr. Cumberland,---"has a delicious woody vale, moſt
"taſtefully managed, and laid out in a ſtyle that

"does

"does infinite credit to his refined taſte; which "has led him likewiſe to make one of the pureſt "and largeſt collections of good antique bronze "ſculpture in Europe, after the Muſeum at Por-"tici, and which is really a valuable acquiſition "to this country."

To enter into a minute deſcription of the romantic ſcenes and the natural and artificial beauties contiguous to Downton Caſtle, would far exceed the limits of the preſent ſmall treatiſe; ſuch indeed is the beauty and variety of the walks and views around his ſeat, the elegance of its ſtructure, and the capital ſelection of paintings, ſtatues &c. that the writer can give but a faint account: He therefore wiſhes that every lover of the fine arts, who ſhould paſs by Ludlow, would make a ſhort deviation to viſit this pleaſant, but ſequeſtered ſpot; and ſupply the defects of what he reads here by a perſonal ſurvey.

Towards the north-weſt over a part of Mocktree Foreſt is

LEINTWARDINE,

A Town pleaſantly ſituate on the banks of the river Teme; ſeven miles from Ludlow, on the road

road leading from that Town to Kington. It lies near the confluence of the Teme and Clun; and from the quantity of fine Fiſh, particularly Grayling, in the ſurrounding ſtreams, is much reſorted to by Company from very diſtant parts, as a faſhionable fiſhing place. It is but a ſmall Town conſiſting principally of one long ſtreet. The Church, which is large, is dedicated to the Bleſſed Virgin, and was appropriated to the Abbey of Wigmore. Mr. Silas Taylor in his MS. informs us that this Church was remarkable for painted glaſs; and there are ſtill many fine pieces remaining with Crowns, Lions, Flower de Luces, the arms of Mortimer &c.---In this Pariſh is

THE HEATH,

A genteel ſeat, placed rather in a low ſituation near to the banks of the Clun, and has a ſmall park in front. In 1685 it belonged to Mr. John Edwards, afterwards Sir J. Edwards, by marrying the daughter and Heir of Heath, who beautified and enlarged it, (or as ſome ſay, rebuilt it) at the expence of 8000 pounds. It afterwards came into the family of the Beales, in which it ſtill continues.---At ſome diſtance towards the north is

Hopton Caſtle;

Hopton Caſtle; the ruins of which, tho' now ſmall, indicate it to have been formerly a very ſtrong place.---It appears that it was taken during the civil wars of Charles I. and afterwards partly deſtroyed. Moſt of the men who compoſed its ſmall garriſon, were put to the ſword, and the Governor Samuel Moor Eſq. confined as a common priſoner in the Caſtle of Ludlow. His MS. account of the taking of the Caſtle, which I have ſeen, ſhews the mode of attack and defence at that period, and is agreeable and intereſting.

FERNEY-HALL.

The reſidence of J. W. Baugh Eſq. It is placed on an eminence and commands a fine view (of the extenſive kind) towards the eaſt of Ludlow Caſtle and Town, Oakley Park, terminated by the Clee-Hills and other fine diſtant objects;---The houſe is complete and well furniſhed, and the garden in great taſte.

SIBDON CASTLE.

This is a large and pleaſant manſion, belonging to James Fleming Baxter Eſq. near to which is the Church. As it is placed on rather an elevated

ted ſpot; the views down the vale over a fertile country are very extenſive; and Ludlow is rendered a fine diſtant object. Concerning the beauty of its ſituation: it will be ſufficient to quote the words of Lord Lyttleton, who has ſo accurately deſcribed it:

"We came to a Gentleman's Houſe on the "ſide of a hill opening to a ſweet valley, which "ſeemed to be built in a taſte much ſuperior "to that of a mere Country Eſquire. We there-"fore ſtopt and deſired to ſee it; which curioſity "was well paid for: we found it the neateſt "and beſt houſe, of a moderate ſize, that we "ever ſaw. The Maſter it ſeems, was bred to the "Law, but quitted the profeſſion about 15 years "ago, and retired into the country upon an eſtate "of 500 per annum: *(or as the original MS. relates* 1500 *per annum)*---"with a wife and four "children; notwithſtanding which incumbrances, "he found means to fit up the houſe, in the "manner we ſaw it, with remarkable elegance, "and to plant all the hills about him with groves "and clumps of trees, that, together with an ad-"mirable proſpect ſeen from it, renders it a place "which a monarch might envy. But to let you

"ſee

"ſee how vulgar minds value ſuch improvements,
"I muſt tell you an anſwer made by our Guide,
"who was ſervant to Lord Powis's Steward, and
"ſpoke, I preſume, the ſenſe of his Maſter; up-
"on our expreſſing ſome wonder that this Gen-
"tleman had been able to do ſo much with ſo
"ſmall a fortune;----I do not, ſaid he, know how
"it is, but he his always doing ſome nonſenſe
"or another."

THE STONE HOUSE.

The rural reſidence of Colonel Walpole, (Brother-in-law to Lord Clive.) It lies in a good ſituation, not far from the high road leading from Ludlow to Shrewſbury; from the former of which it is diſtant nearly five miles.

DELBURY,

Is a genteel ſeat, the occaſional reſidence of the Lord Biſhop of Briſtol.

DOWNTON HALL.

This is the reſidence of the Hon. G. A. Hamilton (eldeſt ſon of Lord Viſcount Boyne,) it ſtands on an eminence nearly five miles to the north-eaſt of Ludlow, in one of the moſt healthy and

agreeable ſituations I know, and from the different parts of the extenſive plantations the eye traverſes a great range of country.

THE MOOR.

This houſe has been lately erected. It is the ſeat of W. Walcot Eſq. in a very pleaſant ſituation.

BITTERLEY COURT.

The ſeat of the Rev. John Walcot, is five miles from Ludlow. It is well ſituate; the houſe is neat, the garden &c. in good order, and the contiguous grounds are diſpoſed in a judicious manner. The Clee-Hill riſing up on the eaſt ſide to a great height is a fine object. The ſummit of it, on which was formerly a Roman Camp, affords a lovely and very extenſive proſpect on every ſide, bounded all round by different ranges of diſtant hills, ſo that on a clear day no leſs than 13 or 14 Counties are to be ſeen with the naked eye; but the ſides, (as Lord Lyttleton obſerves,) are more difficult to paſs than almoſt any of the Welſh hills, being covered all over with looſe ſtones or rather with pieces of rocks, which from their extraordinary magnitude muſt have required

quired an immenſe force to throw them in the different directions in which we find them ſcattered. The extreme point called the Tittarel, which comprehends a ſpace of nearly an acre and half of ground, is ſuppoſed to have been formed by a volcano. It would doubtleſs prove difficult to corroborate the ſuppoſition, in a full and proper manner; ſuffice it therefore to ſay, that ſuch has been the opinion of one of the beſt judges of the preſent age in theſe remarkable phenomena of nature.

The rugged exterior of the hill is however made amends for by the great quantity of coal and iron ſtone, which the lower parts afford; with the former of which, of a very excellent quality the adjacent country for a conſiderable diſtance is ſupplied.

HENLEY,

Is about two miles from Ludlow, contiguous to the road leading from Ludlow over the Clee-Hill to Cleobury-Mortimer. It is the reſidence of T. Knight Eſq. a Gentleman univerſally reſpected. It is a large and pleaſant manſion, well ſituate, the interior elegantly furniſhed and

remarkably neat. In the ſouth front is a Park, well ſtocked with fine Timber and Deer; The plantations and walks round the houſe are laid out with great taſte, and the Letwyche forming a fine caſcade throws great life upon the ſcenery of the place.

At no great diſtance from the above towards the ſouth is

COURT-OF-HILL,

The ſeat of the late Thomas Hill Eſq. Repreſentative in Parliament for the Borough of Leominſter.----And nearer to the road leading from Ludlow to Tenbury is

EASTON,

The manſion of Richard Danſey Eſq. the deſcendant of the ancient family of the Danſeys of Brinſop, in the county of Hereford.

CAYNHAM.

The occaſional ſeat of the Rev. W. Calcott. The houſe has been newly fronted and much beautified by the preſent Owner and is ſituate in a pleaſant ſpot. Not far from the manſion is the Pariſh Church, a curious old ſtructure, and a little to the north of it is a Roman Camp,

mentioned

mentioned in Leland, the ſummit of which commands a charming view of the ſurrounding country.

ASHFORD.

This is a very pleaſant village, about two miles from Ludlow, divided into two parts by the River Teme. Among the many houſes in the eaſt, is the hoſpitable manſion of S. Yate Eſq. placed in an agreeable ſituation contiguous to the banks of the river. Towards the weſt is a handſome houſe the reſidence of T. Stokes Eſq. It is a large modern building, ſituate on a fine ſpot, riſing gradually from the banks of the Teme, commanding an inviting proſpect around it, and the plantations are neatly diſpoſed.

SALTMORE - WELLS.

A little to the north of Aſhford towards Ludlow is an excellent mineral ſpring called SALTMORE. The ſituation in which it lies is extremely pleaſant, placed at the foot of a hill, not far from the banks of the Teme, and a ſmall building has been erected near it, for the accommodation of the public. The water taſtes very much like that of the Spa, only much weaker and its ſulphureous

flavour

flavour not quite ſo ſtrong. An experiment may be eaſily made to prove that it is impregnated with iron, for by putting a ſmall quantity of gall pulverized into a glaſs of the water, it will ſoon turn it of a deep purple colour. Tho this ſpring would undoubtedly prove uſeful to perſons, to whom the uſe of ſuch mineral waters is preſcribed, it is not however much reſorted to; and no wonder, for immediate advantages are frequently neglected, becauſe near and often ſeen, whilſt the ſpeculative utility of diſtant and more faſhionable places, receives implicit credit and is greedily ſought for.

RICHARD'S CASTLE.

Is about three miles from Ludlow. The town contiguous was anciently called *Gayton* or *Boytanc*, 'till the luſtre of the Caſtle darkened that name, whereby at laſt the Town was called by the Caſtle's name, and are both in the county of Hereford. It is evident, from various old records, that this was a town of conſiderable importance until the time of Henry II. when it began to decay; and altho' the Mortimers made uſe of every endeavour to ſupport its declining ſtate 'till the reign of Henry III. it ſeems from that

period

period to have been totally annihilated, that it is not even mentioned in any accounts ſince that time, and now only conſiſts of a few farm houſes.

Sic patet exemplis oppida poſſe mori.

King John granted to Robert de Mortimer a charter for holding both a market and fair at this place; but both have been ſo long diſuſed, that there is ſcarcely any memory left of either, except that there is yet a place called the Toll-ſhop green near the Caſtle.

Concerning the Caſtle, Leland, who lived in the time of Henry VIII. writes thus;---"Richard's "Caſtle ſtandeth upon the top of a very worky "hill, well wooded, and at the weſt end of the "Pariſh Church there. The Keep, the walls and "the towers of it ſtand, but going to ruin. There "is a poor houſe of timber in the Caſtle-garth for "a farmer; it belongeth now to the King, it "belonged of late to the Lord Vaux, after to "Pope. There is a Park impaled."

King Edward VI. granted the Manors of Richard's Caſtle &c. to Nicholas, Biſhop of Worceſter and his heirs. In the 15th century T. Bradſhaw poſſeſſed this Manor by a long leaſe from the

the Biſhop, and married the daughter of Arthur Salwey Eſq. by whom he had iſſue 20 children, whoſe Grandſon ſold the leaſe of the Manor to Richard Salwey Eſq. in which worthy family it ſtill continues.

The interior of the Caſtle is now converted into a hop-yard: ſome part of the Keep and walls are ſtill remaining, yet ſo hidden by the luxuriant wood ſcenery about them, as ſcarcely to be diſcovered 'till they are nearly approached.

"Beneath this Caſtle, (ſays Camden,) Nature, "which no where diſporteth itſelf more in ſhew-"ing wonders than in waters, hath brought forth "a pretty Well, which is always full of little fiſh-"bones, or, (as ſome think,) of ſmall frog-bones, "altho' they be from time to time drawn quite "out of it, whence it is called Bone-well."

But this muſt be contradicted, for theſe bones are found generally in ſpring and autumn, and not at all in the winter. Moſt people imagine them to be frog's bones which come out of the cliffs of the rock adjoining to the well, that the coldneſs of the water kills them, and then diſſolves the fleſh from the bone. An ingenious perſon not long ſince took a live frog, and tied it for ſome time

time in the well, yet found no ſuch effect. Let the more learned Naturaliſt determine the ſubject.

The Pariſh Church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and had formerly a ſpire till caſually burnt down; it is contiguous to the Caſtle and is a fine old ſtructure, with ſome beautiful remnants of painted glaſs.

The reſidence of the preſent Rector, the Rev. T. Baines, is at

BATCHCOTT,

near the upper road leading from Ludlow to Leominſter, and is a very pleaſant and comfortable manſion.---In this pariſh is

THE MOOR.

In the ſixteenth century it belonged to the family of the Lyttletons, now to the Salweys. It lies on the ſouth ſide of the upper road leading from Ludlow to Leominſter, and is a very genteel habitation. It is ſituate in the midſt of a fine undulating country, and makes with the ſurrounding plantations and groves, a pleaſing and picturesque object. The grounds contiguous to the houſe were formerly ſtocked with Deer, and by the in-

termixture of various clumps of trees, a fine ſheet of water and ſome handſome diſtant proſpects are rendered highly agreeable to the fond lover of natural landſcape.

At a ſmall diſtance from the above on the weſtern ſide of the high road is an elegant villa called

THE LODGE,

The beautiful ſeat of Theophilus Richard Salwey Eſq. It is delightfully ſituate on an elevated ſpot, ſkirted towards the weſt by ſome pleaſant woods, and commands an extenſive and varied view over a large range of country. The many improvements made in the houſe, plantations &c. by this Gentleman ſince it has been in his poſſeſſion, have conſiderably increaſed its beauty. The *facade* of the building is a very neat piece of architecture, and the whole of the interior is remarkably neat and elegantly finiſhed; indeed the external advantage of this charming ſpot can only be equalled by the comfort and benevolence that reign within.

THE HAYS.

This is a ſmall villa the Country reſidence of

J.

J. Salwey Eſq. who is Lord of the Manor of Richard's Caſtle. It is ſeated on a lofty ſummit almoſt in the midſt of the woods, and has been of late years ſo much increaſed in its rural elegance, as to attract public notice. Cloſe to it is a very extenſive Park, plentifully ſtocked with deer.

ELTON.

This is the reſidence of T. A. Knight Eſq. (Brother to the worthy owner of Downton Caſtle) It is placed at the foot of a hill, having on each ſide ſome pleaſant woods, and preſenting in front agreeable proſpects intermixed with the buſy ſcenes of agriculture.

WIGMORE.

Wigmore lies to the weſt of this, about 7 miles from Ludlow, which had a college of Prebendaries annexed to the Church, in the year 1100. There are held two fairs, one on the 6th of May and the other on the 5th of Auguſt. Contiguous to it was a very ſtrong Caſtle, which has been for a long time neglected and is now going faſt to decay. It is built upon the point

of a hill of great height, and had great natural ſtrength. It is an irregular building, but the upper part called the Keep, is admirably adapted for defence. Here is alſo an elegant ſeat, the reſidence of Somerſet Davies Eſq.

As the limits of the preſent work will not permit an enlarged account of this ancient place, the Editor of this little tract intends to make a publication, nearly upon the ſame ſcale, on the hiſtory both natural and civil of Wigmore and it's Vicinity.

Proceeding along the high road towards Ludlow, we arrive at Ludford, a neat little vill in the county of Hereford.

LUDFORD HOUSE.

The ſeat of N. L Charlton Eſq. lies contiguous to the village, upon a gently ſwelling hill ariſing with an eaſy aſcent from the banks of the Teme. The front towards the ſouth has been of late much modernized, and the garden laid out in great taſte. In the eaſt part under the wall was St. Julian's Well, ſo famous in ancient times for the miraculous cures done there. The efficacy of the water might poſſibly have been wonderful

in

in many diſorders; and as a certain degree of aſtoniſhment, oftentimes of reſpect, is frequently attached by mankind to myſteries they do not underſtand, no wonder it was greatly reſorted to; but as it has now unfortunately left of wonder-working, it ſeems to be totally neglected

Towards the weſt is a large park well ſtocked with Deer and remarkable for its fine luxuriant wood-ſcenery.

The houſe is a place of great antiquity, and at the time of making the general ſurvey *(Dooms-day)* the Manor made part of the poſſeſſions of Oſburn, the ſon of Richard Lord of Richard's Caſtle, afterwards it was enjoyed by Jordan, who took name from the place, being called Jordan de Ludford; this Jordan left two daughters, whereof one died, the other married Howel Vaughan, who gave or ſold this Manor to the Hoſpital of St. John the Baptiſt in Ludlow, with the meſſuage called St. Giles's houſe, in Ludford, which I ſuppoſe was that which is now the Manor Houſe.

This Manor after the diſſolution, wherein it ſeems this hoſpital was ſwallowed up among the reſt, was by King Edward VI. granted to John Earl of Warwick, together with St. Giles's houſe;

which

which Earl ſoon after ſold the ſame to William Fox (as by licence of alienation appears,) it continued in this family till the year 1607, when it came into the Chariton family, in which worthy deſcent it ſtill continues.

Of this family was Sir Job Charlton, a Gentleman remarkable for his hoſpitality and convivial diſpoſition: during the time that King James reſided at Ludlow Caſtle, he had the honour of entertaining his ſovereign at Ludford houſe, and his Majeſty by frequently repeating his viſits, ſeemed to give an unequivocal proof of his being pleaſed with his reception. One David Davis, who died many years ago, at the great age of 104, was a domeſtick in the family and waited on them. The grey-headed old man towards the decline of life was uſed to ſpeak with raptures of the noble gueſts at Ludford, and the true Britiſh conviviality which reigned round the large table, ſtill remaining in the hall at Ludford houſe.

SECT VI.

THE GOING OUT AND COMING IN OF *STAGE-COACHES, MAILS, WAGGONS &c.*

A Mail Coach goes out every Sunday, Wedneſday and Friday mornings at ſeven o'clock, from the Crown Inn Ludlow, to the Star-and-Garter Inn Worceſter, where it meets the London Mail, and returns to Ludlow the ſame evening.

The Old Poſt Coach from the above Inn every Tueſday morning at five o'clock, to the Crown Inn Worceſter, and returns the ſame evening.

A Coach ſets out from the above Inn, on Monday the 4th of July, at 4 o'clock in the morning, and continues to go every Monday morning at the ſame hour during the ſeaſon; thro' Biſhop's Caſtle to New-town, where it meets the Aberyſtwyth Coach, and from whence both conveyances return the ſame evening.

A new Poſt Coach ſets out from the Angel Inn every Wedneſday morning at ſeven o'clock, to Bewdley, where it meets the Birmingham Coach, and returns to Ludlow the ſame evening.

POST.

POST.

Letters &c, are received three times a week by the London Mail, which arrives at the Crown Inn early in the evening, the other days they are brought by a bye-Poſt thro' Leominſter. On Sunday, Wedneſday and Friday evenings bags are made up for Biſhop's Caſtle.

WAGGONS.

TAYLOR'S LONDON WAGGON ſets out from his Warehouſe in Corve-ſtreet Ludlow, every Monday night, and arrives at the George Inn, Smithfield, London, on Saturday about noon: ſets out on return early on Sunday morning, and arrives at Ludlow on the Friday evening following. The BISHOPS CASTLE Waggon goes out from the above Warehouſe every Sunday night, and returns on Monday.

The MANCHESTER Waggon puts up at the Feathers Inn, Ludlow, on Wedneſday; goes out again on Thurſday, conveying goods for Leominſter, Hereford, Brecknock and all ſouth-Wales; returns to Ludlow on Thurſday night, and proceeds on Friday for Shrewſbury, Cheſter and Manchester.

PREECE'S Market Cart puts up at the White Lion, Ludlow, on Mondays and Thurſdays, and returns to Leominſter the ſame evening.

The KNIGHTON Cart comes in on Mondays and Saturdays, and returns the ſame night.

HARVAT'S and WIGMORE'S Waggons, convey parcels to and from Bewdley, three times a week.

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THE DISTANCES OF ROADS, TO THE PRINCIPAL NEIGHBOURING TOWNS.

To Shrewſbury.

	MILES
Church-Stretton	16
Shrewſbury	13
Total	29

To Birmingham.

Mortimer Cleobury	11
Bewdley	8
Kidderminſter	2
Birmingham	19
Total	40

To Worceſter.

Tenbury	9
The Hundred Houſe	12
Worceſter	11
Total	32

To Hereford.

	MILES
Leominſter	
The upper road	10
The lower road	11
Hereford	13
Total	24

To Aberyſtwyth.

Biſhop's Caſtle	17
Newtown	16
Machynlleth	26
Aberyſtwyth	20
Total	79
To Knighton	16
To Bridgnorth	20
To Kington	22
To Preſteign	18

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